ARE CHRISTIANS AND JEWS BELIEVERS?

THE ISLAMIC POSITION CONCERNING THE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

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INTRODUCTION

Indeed, All Praise belongs to Allah. We praise Allah, we seek his assistance and we beg for his forgiveness. We seek refuge with Allah from the evil of our own selves and from the evil of our deeds. Whomsoever Allah guides, no one can mislead and whomsoever Allah allows to go astray, there is no guide for him. I bare witness and give open testimony that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, who has no associates and I bare witness that Muhammad is His Servant and His Messenger. To proceed:

There is, without a doubt, only one way of life acceptable to Almighty God, Allah. Throughout the ages, Allah has sent to man His Messengers to guide them to the straight path of Tawheed and warned them against the misguidance of false deities. As Allah, Most High has said,

And Verily, We have sent among every Ummah a Messenger proclaiming: 'Worship Allah and avoid *Taaghoot* (all false deities).' [16:36]

The message of the messengers has always been the call of submission to the will of Allah, though it has come in different tongues, times, and places. Allah says;

And We sent not a Messenger except with the language of his people, in order that he might make (the Message) clear for them. Then Allah misleads whom He wills and guides whom He wills. [14:4]

In other words, all of the messengers came with Islam. Furthermore, the Qur'an and the Sunnah are replete with instructions and guidance concerning the fundamentals of eemaan and what negates it. Allah, Most High, in the Qur'an reveals the essence of true faith and its components as well as the reward for those who have this eemaan. The Qur'an also contrasts this with what constitutes kufr and its perils along with the miserable result of it. It is upon anyone who truly seeks the pleasure of Allah, to understand the clear distinctions between eemaan and kufr and to follow that which leads to the sweetness of eemaan and to flee from that which leads to kufr and the punishment of Allah. It is with this in mind that I felt the need to warn against a potentially dangerous trend and that is the misguidance that the religions of the Christians and the Jews are legitimate in the sight of Allah. This trend unfortunately has come about in the last few years because of, among other things, the increased hostility among westerners with regard to Islam and Muslims and the need for (some) Muslims to go to great lengths to be accepted by the west. To contrast the accusations of the revilers of Islam who say that Islam is 'intolerant', some of our brothers and sisters have gone to the opposite extreme and have fallen in line with the concocted theory that Islam, Christianity, and Judaism fall under the banner of the religion of Abraham. This has only accelerated in the wake of the attacks on America on September 11, 2001. We have seen unity prayer vigils, religious services, and 'inter-faith' dialogues in which Muslims have participated in and have done so in the name of unity, even though these activities are

outside of the fold of Islam and Eemaan. This is why this issue becomes dangerous. The position of Islam is crystal clear on these matters and speaking, acting, and believing otherwise can clearly remove one from the fold of belief and unless one makes a sincere repentance, the end result if one dies upon this, is the punishment of hellfire. It saddens me to see so-called leaders of Muslims, unfortunately oft-times ignorant Muslims, lead their followers down the path of misguidance. These 'leaders', especially one in particular in America have sought to blur the dividing lines between the true belief of Islam and the misguidance of the Christians and the Jews to please their disbelieving benefactors. They must be warned against and this false idea must be fought against by those who fear Allah. That is why it is important to understand our faith according to the principles laid down in the Qur'an and the Sunnah and to attach ourselves to the 'ulamaa' of the righteous predecessors who took knowledge directly from the Generation of the Prophet, sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam. It is with these principles that I would like to show through the clear evidences from the Qur'an and the works of the classical scholars of tafseer as well as the authentic Sunnah that there can be no wavering on the position in Islam concerning faith and disbelief. And that by labeling something as belief when Allah and His Messenger have said that it is kufr is in and of itself clear kufr. In reality, it should be unnecessary to even address this matter. The evidences are simply too numerous. But unfortunately, we have drifted away from the study of our faith and this has allowed misguided trends and self-appointed leaders to mislead us in any and all directions. And Allah is the One we seek for assistance.

ISLAM: THE ONLY RELIGION WITH ALLAH

It is stated quite unequivocally throughout the Qur'an that the only legitimate way of life in the sight of Allah is Islam. This is the central theme that is found throughout the Qur'an from beginning to end. To imply otherwise is to directly and willfully contradict the Qur'an which is tantamount to alleging that Allah has not spoken the truth. At this point, the one who makes this accusation has indeed left the fold of Islam. Allah clearly states;

Truly, the religion with Allah is Islam… [3:19]

The clarity of this statement destroys any argument against it. The most obvious reason is that Allah Himself has legislated and perfected Islam for all of mankind and has founded this way of life upon strict adherence to *Tawheed*. Allah says;

This day have I perfected your religion and completed my favor upon you and have chosen for you Islam as your religion [5:3]

O mankind! Worship your Lord (Allah), Who created you and those who were before you so that you may become *Al-Muttaqoon* (pious). [2:21]

Worship Allah and join none with Him in Worship [4:36]

Allah, Most High has enjoined upon all of mankind to worship Him alone and shun all false deities. The foundation of this way of life is embodied in the declaration of faith, *Laa ilaaha*

illa 'llah, Muhammadan Rasulullah. This is the doorway to the way of life that Allah has legislated. The Prophet (sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam) said,

'Islam is built upon five; To testify that there is no god but Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, the offer the prayer, to give the zakaah, pilgrimage to the House (of Allah) and fasting in Ramadhan.' [Bukhari]

The entire purpose of our lives is to establish this worship according to what Allah has prescribed. This brings the ultimate reward from Allah which is His being pleased with us and entering us into His Paradise. Allah says,

And I (Allah) created not the jinns and humans except they should worship Me (Alone). (56:51)

'Abdur-Rahman ibn Hasan Aal-Ash-Shaykh quotes Shaykhul-Islam Ibn Taymiyyah as saying;

'The worship is obedience to Allah, what Allah has commanded upon the tongues of His Messengers.' He also said, 'The worship is the name of all that which Allah loves (from His servants) and is pleased with from the statements and the actions, both apparent and hidden.' [Fath Al-Majeed]

Shaykh Muhammad Saalih ibn al-'Uthaymeen explains the reason for worship stated by Allah, '…except they should worship Me' as meaning 'to make Tawheed of Allah in worship, and this is *Haqq*. He goes on to explain that it also means to subjugate oneself to Allah in obedience and in performing that which He has commanded and leaving that which He has forbidden and that it is from the obedience to Allah to perfect Tawheed and this is the wisdom in creating both the Jinn and mankind.[Qawlul-Mufeed 'alaa Kitaabit-Tawheed]

It is only through performing the worship according to what Allah has enjoined in Islam, founded upon Tawheed, that one gains the pleasure of Allah and achieve the reward of Paradise in the hereafter. As Allah has stated;

And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will never be accepted from him, and in the hereafter he will be one of the losers [3:85]

Judaism, Christianity, and indeed all other ways of life have been excluded from what is accepted by Allah because in reality, they are rooted in disbelief and shirk. This will be clearly proven from the Qur'an and the Sunnah in the upcoming sections.

EEMAAN AND ITS OPPOSITE: KUFR

Allah has explicitly defined Eemaan in The Qur'an as well as its opposite, kufr. Allah has stated in the Qur'an;

It is not *Al-Birr* (piety, righteousness, and each and every act of obedience to Allah, etc.) that you turn your faces towards east and (or) west (in prayers); but *Al-Birr* is

(the quality of) the one who believes in Allah, the Last Day, the Angels, the Book, the Prophets and gives his wealth, in spite of love for it, to the kinsfolk, to the orphans, and to *Al-Masaakin* (the poor), and to the wayfarer, and to those who ask, and to set slaves free, performs *As-Salaat* (*Iqaamat-as-Salaat*), and gives the *Zakaat*, and who fulfill their covenant when they make it, and who are *As-Saabireen* (the patient ones, etc.) in extreme poverty and ailment (disease) and at the time of fighting (during the battles). Such are the people of the truth and they are *Al-Muttaqoon.* [2:177]

The Prophet, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, also clearly defined what it meant to be a believer in the sight of Allah when He, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, said;

'Al-Eemaan is to believe in Allah, His Angels, His books, His Messengers, and the Last Day, and to believe in Al-Qadr, its good and its bad.' [Muslim]

It is obligatory to believe in these principles and in the particulars that make up these principles. For example, to believe in Allah, is not simply to believe that Allah exists or that God is One but it is to believe in Allah completely upon Tawheed in His Ruboobiyyah, His Uloohiyyah, and in His Asmaa' was Sifaat. To believe in Allah is to believe that Allah has complete ownership and domination over all and that He is the Creator, Shaper, and Fashioner of all that exists. However, it also means that He is the only One who is deserving of worship and that we should direct all of our devotion to Him. It is clear that the Christians and the Jews have left this part of the belief in Allah and have entered into shirk by giving Allah shares in His worship to other than He. Furthermore, belief in Allah is to believe in His Lofty Names and Descriptions as He has named and described Himself and to worship Him by them and to not attribute anything or say anything about Allah that we have not been given license for. The Christians and the Jews have clearly strayed from these principles of Tawheed which make up the foundation of the other beliefs. Allah says about them;

They take their priests and their rabbis to be their lords beside Allah. And they take (as their lord) Christ, the son of Mary, yet they were command to worship Allah alone…[9:31]

Verily they disbelieve who say that Allah is the Messiah, son of Maryam [5:17,72]

Verily they disbelieve who say that Allah is one of a Trinity [5:73]

The Jews said 'Uzayr is the son of Allah and the Christians said that the Messiah (Jesus) is the son of Allah, that is their statement from their mouths, imitating the words of the disbelievers who came before them; The Curse of Allah is upon them…[9:30]

Are these not the acts of the people of the book? Are these acts not shirk and disbelief as Allah has shown them to be?

Consequently, disbelief in Allah, by default, means disbelief in the other principles of Eemaan that Allah and His Prophet, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, have clearly explained. There can be no (proper) belief in the angels of Allah, without proper belief in Allah. For example,

belief in the Angels encompasses the belief that Allah sends the revelation through His angel, Jibreel. Allah says;

Say (O Muhammad Peace be upon him): "Whoever is an enemy to Jibrael (Gabriel) , for indeed he has brought it (this Qur'an) down to your heart by Allah's Permission, confirming what came before it [i.e. the Tauraat (Torah) and the Injeel (Gospel)] and guidance and glad tidings for the believers. [2:97]

However, if one does not believe that the Angel Jibreel is the one who delivered the speech of Allah, i.e., The Qur'an, to Muhammad, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, (which the Christians and the Jews reject) then one has in fact disbelieved in the Angels, as well as the Qur'an, as well as Allah. Allah exposes their kufr when He says;

Say: 'O' People of the Scriptures (Jews and Christians)! Why do you *takfuroona* (reject, disbelieve) the Ayat of Allah while Allah is a Witness to what you do?' [3:98]

Furthermore, the People of The Book reject the Messenger Muhammad, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam because if they believed in him and what he was sent with from his Lord, they would follow him. Allah makes this clear when He says;

Say: (O' Muhammad)"If you (really) love Allah then follow me, Allah will love you and forgive you of your sins. And Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful."[3:31]

Following the Messenger, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam is the criterion for who really believes and loves Allah. Allah has made following the Messenger, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, the litmus test so to speak with regard to those who claim to love Allah. Hence, it is a proof against their belief and their claim of love that if they reject the Messenger, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, they indeed have rejected Allah, and this is clear kufr. Allah says;

But no, by your Lord, they can have no *Eemaan*, until they make you (O Muhammad) judge in all disputes between them, and find in themselves no resistance against your decisions, and accept (them) with full submission. [4:65]

Rejecting the Messenger, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, without question negates eemaan and this is the characteristic of the Jews and Christians because if they accepted the Messenger, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, they would no longer be Jews nor Christians but they would be Muslims. Belief in Allah and His Messenger, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam is *waajib* (obligatory) upon all of mankind for Allah says;

Say (O Muhammad): "O mankind! Verily, I am sent to you all as the Messenger of Allah - to Whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth. *Laa ilaaha illa Huwa* (none has the right to be worshipped but He); It is He Who gives life and causes death. So believe in Allah and His Messenger (Muhammad), the Prophet who can neither read nor write who believes in Allah and His Words, and follow him so that you may be guided. "[7:158]

Rejecting the Messenger is clear kufr because negation of one principle of eemaan negates all of eemaan. And rejection of an aspect within these categories is rejection of the entire category of eemaan. Hence, rejecting one aspect of Tawheed negates all of Tawheed, rejecting one Angel or the actions of the Angels is rejection of the belief in angels as a whole, rejection of one book of Allah is the rejection of all of the books, rejection of one Prophet or Messenger is rejection of them all, and so forth. As Ibn Al-'Uthaymeen explains,

'Therefore, whoever disbelieves in the message of anyone of them (the Messengers) then he disbelieves in all of them…' The Shaykh goes on to say, 'The Christians who belied Prophet Muhammad, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, and did not follow him, themselves belied the Messiah (Jesus) ibn Maryam and consequently are not his followers especially when he brought them good news about Muhammad, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam.' [Sharh Usoolul-Eemaan]

This point is found explicitly in the Sunnah with regard to the Jews as well. In a hadeeth reported by an-Nasaa'ee and others, the Prophet, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, saw in the hand of 'Umar ibn Al-Khattaab (may Allah be pleased with him) a page from the Torah so he, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, said, 'If Moses were alive, he would have no choice but to follow me.' So 'Umar said, 'I am pleased with Allah as my Lord, Islam as my religion, and with Muhammad as my Prophet.' If following the Messenger Muhammad, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, in everything that he commanded would be waajib upon Moses, 'alayhi salaam, how much more so are the Jews obligated to follow him?

CLARIFYING SOME MISCONCEPTIONS

The purpose for belief in Allah and worshipping Him is to attain His pleasure and His reward. Logically, those who Allah rewards in the hereafter with paradise are the believers and those whom He punishes are the disbelievers. It is illogical, even inconceivable that Allah would reward disbelievers with paradise. If that were the case, why bother to worship Allah at all? If we could enter His Jannah without ever having to believe in Him or worship Him, why would we even bother to go through the trials of worship? This is the importance of being firm in the proper position of the people of the book. In inviting them to Islam, we have to know that their only hope for true salvation is to believe in Allah, worship Him alone according to what He has legislated, and to follow the Messenger whom He has sent. Otherwise, what are we inviting them to? And why should they accept it? If we believe that they will enter paradise without having to enter into Islam, then why should they accept as a way of life praying five times a day, beginning with the early morning fajr prayer? Why should they fast in Ramadhan when they can simply remain Christians or Jews and eat while the Muslims fast? Since everyone will end up in the same place anyway (Jannah), why should a Muslim remain a Muslim? The end result of such thinking is apostasy because logically, one would be right if this were the case to question being a Muslim if all three religions were legitimate. The Christians and the Jews certainly feel that their way is the right way and afford no such accommodations for Islam. Allah says about them;

And they say, "Be Jews or Christians, then you will be guided [2:135]

Never will the Jews and Christians be pleased with you until you follow their *millah* (way, religion) [2:120]

So we have a case of the Christian or the Jew saying that Christians and the Jews will be in paradise and the Muslim who believes this is saying that Christians and the Jews will be in paradise. So everyone is agreeing that Christians and Jews will be in paradise. But when it comes to the Muslims being in paradise, it is only the Muslim who believes this. So there is a unanimous consensus that Christians and Jews will be in paradise and a minority opinion that Muslims will be. Which religion now appears to be the least safe with regards to the hereafter? This misguidance must be rejected for it is a dangerous way for the Muslims. May Allah protect us from it. Ameen.

There are those who say that the evidence that the religion of the Jews and the Christians are legitimate in the sight of Allah is because of two verses from the Qur'an which indicate that they will have their reward with Allah. Allah says;

Verily! Those who believe and those who are Jews and Christians, and Sabians, whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day and do righteous good deeds shall have their reward with their Lord, on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve . [2:62]

Surely, those who believe (in the Oneness of Allah, in His Messenger Muhammad and all that was revealed to him from Allah), those who are the Jews and the Sabians and the Christians, - whosoever believed in Allah and the Last Day, and worked righteousness, on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve. [5:69]

With regard to the Qur'an, we must approach it and understand it the way that it was meant to be understood. If we want to know how to understand the Qur'an, we simply look to the Qur'an itself, and we look to the Sunnah of Allah's Messenger, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam. From this, we can benefit from the classical works of the scholars of Tafseer who mastered this approach and who have explained the Qur'an based upon the authentic interpretations which are based in the Sunnah. As for the verses in question, Imam at-Tabari explains that those who believe from this group are those who affirm the messenger of Allah, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, and bear witness that he came to them with the truth from Allah and that their Eemaan in it is the affirmation of its clear evidences and proofs [Tafseer Tabari Jaami'ul-Bayaan]. 'Allaamah ibn Katheer further explains by saying that whoever was righteous from the previous nations and was obedient to Allah, then Indeed for them is an excellent reward. Ibn Katheer also mentions that this is similar to the case of these times until the day of judgment in that everyone who follows the unlettered Prophet (Muhammad, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam) will have everlasting happiness and they will have no fear upon them about their future nor will they be grievous about their past. The ayah [2:62] was revealed on an occasion when Salmaan al-Farsee asked the Prophet, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, about the people whom he used to be with (People of the Book) and their worship and this verse was revealed. Ibn Katheer reports that As-Sudee said that Salmaan mentioned to the Prophet, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, that they prayed, fasted, believed, as well as believed that the Prophet would be sent.

"So when Salmaan finished praising them, The Prophet, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, said to him, 'O Salmaan, they are people of the fire.' This was hard on Salmaan so Allah revealed the verse, '**Verily! Those who believe and those who are Jews and Christians…'** so the eemaan of the Jews was (confirmed) for whoever held fast to the Torah and the sunnah of Moses until the coming of Jesus. And when Jesus came, who ever still held on to the Torah and took the Sunnah of Moses and did not leave it and did not follow Jesus, they were destroyed. The eemaan of the Christians is for whoever held fast to the Injeel and the sharee'ah (law) of Jesus were accepted as believers until the coming of Muhammad, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam. So whoever from amongst them did not follow Muhammad, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, and leave what was upon them from the Sunnah of Jesus were destroyed.' [Tafseerul-Qur'anil-'Adheem]

Muhammad al-Ameen ash-Shanqeetee states;

'This does not negate what Alee bin Abee Talha reports from ibn Abbaas that after this verse was revealed Allah revealed the verse, **"whosoever desires a religion other than Islam then it shall not be accepted from him and in the Hereafter he shall be of the losers." [3: 85]** Here ibn Abbaas is informing that the only thing accepted from someone is that which is in conformity to the Sharee`ah of Muhammad (sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam) after he had been sent. As for those who came before him, then whosoever followed the Messenger of his time then he was upon guidance and the victorious way. So the Jews referred to are the followers of Moses who used to judge by the Tawrah in their time.[Adwaa'ul-Bayaan]

Imam Jalaaludeen Muhammad ibn Ahmad al-Mahallee states about the verses [2:62] and [5:69] that those who believe are from amongst the believers in the prophets of previous times, whom were the *yahood* (Jews) *nasaara* (Christians) and Saabi'een (an offshoot sect of the Jews and the Christians) and also those who believe from amongst them during the time of Muhammad, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam and who worked deeds of righteousness according to the Sharee'ah that he, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, came with, then their reward is with their Lord for their righteous works.[Tafseeru Jalaalayn]

Indeed, even in *Suratul-Faatihah*, the Chapter of the Qur'an which all Muslims know and recite multiple times a day contain clear proofs that the Jews and the Christians are astray and have incurred the anger of Allah.

Narrated Adi ibn Haatim: I asked Allah's Messenger, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, about the statement of Allah (from Al-Faatihah),**'…Not the way of those who incurred your anger'** He, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, replied, 'They are the Jews.' And about the statement, **'Nor those who have gone astray'** He, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, replied, 'The Christians, they are the ones who have gone astray.' [At-Tirmidhi, Abu Dawood]

This is the understanding of the companions of the Prophet, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, because this is what the Prophet, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, taught them. Who then has a right to come and interpret the Qur'an according to their own opinion? Yet those who are gullible due to lack of knowledge of their religion may be duped into this way of thinking because of the neglect of the Sunnah and the neglect of the 'ulamaa' of Islam. Name a scholar of the Salaf who held the opinion that Christians and Jews are believers. It was

unanimously understood based on an elementary understanding of the texts that the People of the Book who retain their religion after the coming of Muhammad, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, are kuffaar. To quote our Shaykh, ibn Al-'Uthaymeen (May Allah have mercy upon him);

'So whoever does not know of the kufr of the Jews and the Christians are those who do not believe in Muhammad (sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam) and has rejected him and indeed has rejected Allah, Mighty and Majestic. And the rejection of Allah is kufr and whoever has doubt about the kufr of the People of the Book, then there is no doubt about his kufr.' [Fataawa Islamiyyah, Vol.1]

Allah has established that those who commit shirk, most certainly will not enter Jannah but will enter the fire of hell. As Allah has said directly about the Christians;

Surely, they have disbelieved who say: "Allah is the Messiah ['Iesa (Jesus)], son of Maryam (Mary)." But the Messiah ['Iesa (Jesus)] said: "O Children of Israel! Worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord." Verily, whosoever sets up partners in worship with Allah, then Allah has forbidden Paradise for him, and the Fire will be his abode . And for the *Zaalimoon* (polytheists and wrongdoers) there are no helpers. [5:72]

And Allah Most High does not forgive that one dies associating partners with Him as He as He has stated;

Verily, Allah forgives not that partners should be set up with him in worship, but He forgives except that (anything else) to whom He pleases, and whoever sets up partners with Allah in worship, he has indeed invented a tremendous sin. [4:48]

The concept of Christianity and Judaism being 'Abrahamic' is also clearly refuted in the Qur'an when Allah contrasts the true religion of Abraham, Islam, with those mushrikoon (polytheists) who falsely claim him;

And they say, "Be Jews or Christians, then you will be guided." Say (to them, O Muhammad), "Nay, (We follow) only the religion of Ibraahim (Abraham), *Hanifa*, and he was not of *Al-Mushrikoon* ." [2:135]

And the statement of Allah;

Ibraheem was neither a Jew nor a Christian, but he was a Muslim *Haneef* – and he was not of the Mushrikeen (pagans, polytheists). Verily, among mankind who have the best claim to Ibraheem are those who followed him (in his time) and this Prophet (Muhammad, sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) and those who have believed (Muslims). And Allah is the *Wali* (protector) of the believers. [3:67,68]

Hence, anyone who says that the Christians and the Jews are from the religion of Abraham has contradicted the Qur'an. May Allah protect us from this evil. Ameen.

Finally, our Prophet, sallallahu'alayhi wa sallam, has clearly informed us of the destination of the People of the Book in his time until the Day of Judgment when he said;

'By Him (Allah) in Whose Hand Muhammad's soul is, there is none from amongst the Jews and the Christians (of these present nations) who hears about me and then dies without believing in the message with which I have been sent, but he will be from the dwellers of the hellfire.' [Muslim]

CONCLUSION

There is a misunderstanding among some in our communities that being firm upon the deen of Islam is somehow extreme. The purpose of this study is not to incite Muslims to act violently or even rudely with the People of the Book. This also is not from Islam. But it is a call to return back to the study of eemaan and that which negates it so that we may arm ourselves against the dangers of falling into disbelief. It is also a reminder that we have a responsibility to the People of the Book as well as all of humanity to call them to the religion of Allah, Islam. It would be quite impossible to maintain the resolve to give da'wah to our non-Muslim parents, grand-parents, teachers, co-workers, neighbors, etc. if we were under the mistaken belief that if they died without accepting Islam, that they would be protected from the hellfire. More importantly, we must protect ourselves from thinking that if we leave Islam, by way of becoming a Jew or Christian, then this is still belief. We seek refuge in Allah from that. The People of the Book should see the finest examples of nobility, manners, etiquettes, and kindness in us because this is the way of Islam. There is nothing rude or extreme in declaring that Allah, alone has the right to be worshipped and that He has commanded humanity to submit to Him in Islam. It is the right that the People of the Book have over us that they should receive this blessed da'wah that they may truly be saved.

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